

ISSUE 2, 2000

The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

HOW DO I..

...RENEW MY KEYNOTE SUBSCRIPTION? Send a check payable to FISTS for \$15/year to Nancy Kott, WZ8C, POBox 47 Hadley MI 48440. *What's the Family Plan?* All CW folks at the same QTH can belong to FISTS for one subscription fee of \$15. You will each have your own FISTS number, but only one Keynote will be mailed per address. Student rate = \$10 if not in a Family Plan.

...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Stan Reas, K4UK, and the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club handle FISTS QSL bureau. Sort your outgoing FISTS cards by call area, and mail to K4UK, 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA 24121. To receive cards have waiting for you at the bureau, send K4UK some SASEs. QSLs will NOT be sent to you unless you have sent in an SASE. If you prefer NOT to get cards via the buro, pse let Stan know this also so he can return the cards to the senders. His Email is stanreas@rev.net. There is a link to the QSL Buro Web page thru the FISTS Web page <<http://www.fists.org>>

...SPONSOR A DX FISTS? DX FISTS have their Keynote is mailed from England. Send their info to Geo Longden, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

...HAVE AN APPLICATION OR NEWSLETTER SAMPLE SENT TO FRIENDS? Send their address Joe W5OS 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA, 70072. Pse enclose \$1 if sample Keynote is requested. An application is also available, in text format, for downloading on our Web page <http://www.FISTS.org>

...APPLY FOR A FISTS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD? Send a list of contacts: call, FISTS #, date, band, power used, and YOUR return address to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, 4658 Capitan Fremont CA 94536. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the US issued Awards. If you are applying for the Golden/Diamond Century or the Platinum, send your request directly to England; Bob Lowe PO Box 190, BOLTON BH1 4UL, including \$5 US cash to cover the cost of the award plus postage.

...VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY? send your requirements and info to John Cmiel, W9EM, 34020 N. Hickory Ave, Grayslake IL60030. Email to w9em@qsl.net.

...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself, with your face about the size of a quarter, to Ken Kott, W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION? Contact Joe Spencer, KK5NA at KK5NA@quadj.com or 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington, TX 76016. Let him know the date and approx number of attendees. The Presentation takes about 20 minutes; includes a script and overhead transparencies.

...FIND THE WEB PAGE? <http://www.FISTS.org>

...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill Myers, KK4KF at bjmyers@arc.net

...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS? SASE to WX9X at 354 West St, Valparaiso IN 46383

...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE? Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$8.20 post-paid from The Signman of Baton Rouge 879 Castle Kirk Dr, Baton Rouge LA 70808; email nv5a@aol.com

A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd, Medford NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

...ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Gold logo stickers, 200 for \$5; Blue enamel/gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Cloth logo patches 3" octagon shape, \$1.50. "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for 50 cents. Mugs are \$7.50. Tshirts: M & L only \$9. (s,xl,xxl,xxxl = sold out). These prices INCLUDE priority postage. Make checks payable to FISTS CW Club. Order supplies from Irene WO8E 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp, MI 48038. *The rubber stamps are back in stock; round logo about 3/4" - \$5 postpaid.*

...GET A MEMBERLIST? The list is printed in the KeyNote once a year and is on the Web page. A printed updated list may be obtained by sending \$2 (cash or check payable to Ed Hayes) - it's 17 pages long, to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Corrections to Ed at n7cfa@kalama.com

...GET ON THE FISTS ON-LINE Email LIST? Send your Email address with your name/call/ FISTS number to Brian LaFontaine W8BL at blafont@tir.com If you change Email addresses, pse let Brian know.

The Keynote is published approximately monthly, except for two issues combined periodically into one, by Nancy Kott WZ8C, P. O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047 Email: nancy@tir.com WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for space, clarity and topic suitability. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. Articles from The Keynote MAY be reprinted if credit is given to the original author. Please check your subscription renewal date on your mailing label.

North **KEYNOTE** American

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday & Thursday 9pm EST on 3.682
Slow Ragchewing Group: 8pm EST Wed on 3.720
Century Award Net: 14.058MHz, Sunday NCS volunteer needed
Saturday QSO Groups: 14.058 at 2000Z and 7.058 at 2300Z
Sunday Slow Speed Chat 21.158MHz at 1700Z
30 meter calling frequency = 10.118
Please keep watch on the Novice Bands and frequencies ending in .x58

Accuracy Transcends Speed

Courtesy At All Times

Hello FISTS! The big news, of course, is the FCC Restructuring. I have to admit I took it pretty hard. Reducing the code speed requirement to 5WPM across the board and allowing people who passed the 5WPM in the past to have credit for the code exam, even though their tickets have long expired, took me by surprise. I was expecting changes, but nothing this sweeping and drastic. Those of you who know me, know that my non-work life pretty much revolves around the code and FISTS. To say that the FCC decision took the wind out of my sails, is putting it mildly.

I was chatting with Lee, N9NVV, and bemoaning (or as he says - whining) the sorry state of things, and wondering what was going to happen to FISTS now that the world as we know it has come to an end. Luckily, Lee is a level-headed type and he reminded me that FISTS is just the sort of group we need now more than ever. It brings like minded people together for support, education and fun; encouraging on-the-air activity so we don't lose our CW frequencies to disuse. The legal requirements to get a license may have been dumbed down, but that doesn't mean we, ourselves, have to lower our personal standards.

The type of ham who joins FISTS is still out there. So what if the FCC says that the code proficiency isn't necessary for more privileges! That doesn't mean that those of us who take pride in our skill aren't going to continue to enjoy and hone our craft. And that's what FISTS is all about. We're not a political action group. As long as there are those of us out there who understand the magic of Morse and making music with our keys, the need for FISTS will not go away. Setting an example of having fun with code can go a long way because enthusiasm is infectious.

My computer finally decided that it was Y2K, in February, and started giving me fits. First the mouse kept freezing up, then the keyboard, then the modem quit working, then some programs refused to open...so I got a new computer. But, this means I lost a lot of Email. If you emailed me and I haven't answered, it's because I can't get into the email program to retrieve them. Sorry for the inconvenience, but please send your comments and questions again and I'll do my best to get to them. Unfortunately, two columns that John Shannon wrote were included in the lost email, so the column of his I am running this month is not the one he had planned. Please bear with me while I make the transition over to the new computer. That is also why this Issue 2 is later than I would have liked. The computer crashed just as I was putting on the finishing touches. Computers! You can't live with them and can't live without them, at least, I can't run FISTS without one, hi.

Please join me in thanking Joe Nihen, for his two years volunteer service as our NAFAM (North American FISTS Awards Manager). Joe's decided it's time to pass the torch and Dennis Franklin, K6DF, has stepped up to accept the post. Joe has done a terrific job with great patience and a lot of time, and we really appreciate his efforts. There is a lot more involved in being a club volunteer than may meet the eye. Unless you've been a behind the scenes worker for a large group, it's hard to comprehend the hours and dedication involved. Thanks Joe!

There will be coordination between Joe and Dennis as things get sorted out, so please be patient and watch the Keynote for further instructions in regard to the Century and USA-issued awards.

Renewals

This continues to be a popular way of letting you know your subscription is due for renewal, in addition to the date on your label (which is there MOST of the months!). If you sent in your renewal check within the last couple weeks, don't get upset if your call is on this list - it probably crossed in the mail between the time I am writing this and the time you are reading it.

AA0IQ	K2IUC	KA4CLM	KCOW	KF6GKR
AA0MZ	K2SAQ	KA7PLE	KC2AUH	KF6GUH
AA3SJ	K2VL	KA7PMD	KC2BMJ	KF6MYS
AA4YW	K3AAA	KA8CBZ	KC2BQM	KF8NS
AA5JJ	K3CJQ	KA9EDR	KC4IYD	KG2NT
AA7EQ	K3CKO	KA9GXZ	KC4OCS	KG2OK
AA8YO	K3KDC	KA9WAC	KC4UBC	KG5X
AA9CI	K3VUT	KB0DYY	KC4VIA	KG8UY
AA9QE	K4CMH	KB0LAO	KC5DUI	KG8ZQ
AB5ZD	K4EQH	KB0NVA	KC5JTS	KG9ML
AB6WS	K4JSE	KB0TCY	KC5QIQ	KI0G
AB7ZL	K4NIC	KB1CCI	KC5VLP	KI0MF
AB8BT	K4OWW	KB1DIL	KC5WES	KI5HI
AB8CR	K4PK	KB2ION	KC7FIM	KI5SP
AC4DT	K4WZ	KB2LML	KC7JJ	KI6DS
AC4NW	K5DKH	KB2SZB	KC7MZT	KI7Q
AC5GG	K5IGB	KB2WQZ	KC8BOJ	KK4TI
AC5PP	K5KWD	KB2WXI	KC8EFP	KK5FX
AC6FI	K6BM	KB3AQL	KC8FDP	KL7QOW
AC6LP	K6DF	KB3CRY	KC8FGQ	KL7VIC
AD4UI	K6GVG	KB4OPV	KC8FTN	KM5AV
AD4YB	K6JYJ	KB5HRS	KC8GCR	KM5BJ
AD5X	K6PBQ	KB5OMD	KC8GPR	KM5DT
AD6CC	K6YN	KB5OME	KD4BAM	KM7T
AD6EZ	K7AA	KB6OAJ	KD4UMU	KN2X
AD6FL	K7JIZ	KB7PTK	KD4VA	KN4SX
AE0S	K7OF	KB7SVA	KD5EGU	KQ0I
AE4GH	K7UQH	KB7WTK	KD5FJE	KQ6IH
AE4JD	K8BBM	KB8NKP	KD5FLO	KR2F
AE4NW	K8BY	KB8OOR	KD6HTV	KR5L
AF4NW	K8FLY	KB8SCJ	KD6NPA	KS0M
AG5I	K8KUG	KB8TMR	KE0Z	KS4C
AI4CW	K8PP	KB8TO	KE4JSL	KS4DU
AI4ED	K8SZN	KB8WDX	KE4OGI	KT4AD
CO6BR	K8VB	KB8WGX	KE4UKX	KT4QW
K0CEU	K9GBD	KB8WSC	KE4UKY	KT4ST
K0MP	K9JDC	KB8WWW	KE4UKY	KU4AV
K0ND	K9JWI	KB8ZYY	KE6GTR	KU4GE
K0UB	K9VKY	KB9KGI	KE6QR	KU4OK
KOVAN	K9XE	KB9MMI	KE6WAR	KU4WF
KIMBX	KA0VZZ	KB9OLD	KE6ZWZ	KV6E
K1QQ	KA2FDA	KB9QKW	KF4JRO	KX5F
K1QT	KA2OAZ	KB9ROB	KF4NMK	N0CI
K1ZDI	KA3PHV	KB9SDU	KF6AUO	N0IHM
K2HD	KA3ZXX	KC0DUO	KF6FCN	N0JWI

N0SOT
N0SS
N0TP
N0XTN
N1EVO
N1IYH
N1MKE
N1QY
N1TAT
N1TP
N1TX
N1WNT
N1YLA
N2ADP
N2BWM
N2EY
N2LMC
N2OSY
N2PD
N2REM
N2TTL
N2YVF
N2ZDV
N3FCO
N3ON
N3SLR
N3VJV
N3ZPQ
N4EO
N4ONT
N4PNN
N4SHE
N4XY
N5CV
N5LF
N5SC
N5TW
N5WL
N6NOU
N6PJP
N6RQL
N6SFV
N7BQ
N7ELV
N7FF
N7NU
N7QS
N7VX
N7YY
N8CPA
N8EVJ
N8GMC
N8KC
N8UGV
N8UHL

N8WPX
N8WR
N8ZWV
N9FGC
N9IGE
N9LEC
N9PM
N9RIV
N9WOO
N9YAI
NA7R
NB1Q
NC5E
NG3A
NJ4K
NK4E
NR4G
NS3O
NU4N
NX8L
NY2V
VA3HU
VA3JEG
VE1BBW
VE1VEI
VE3DCS
VE3GM
VE3GXU
VE3MIQ
VE3VGK
VE5DC
VE5JT
VE7API
VE7BSU
VE7CFU
VE7CRO
VE7GAF
VE7JEF
VE7PEB
VY0XU
W0AAU
W0CC
W0CHJ
W0MYZ
W0NF
K0MP
W0QKR
W0RE
W0SLS
W0SZ
W0YPM
W0ZQJ
W1ARS
W1BIC
W1CKV

W1FHP
W1JDI
W1SCW
W2FLG
W2IFB
W2LKT
W2LYH
W2WX
W2YYS
W2ZQ
W3GW
W3KQ
W3SYR
W3ZVT
W4FOA
W4IAS
W4LAN
W4NBS
W4NJK
W4YGE
W5BYU
W5CWZ
W5EI
W5HNS
W5KRF
W5KRP
W6EN
W6HQA
W6KRL
W6RG
W6UIX
W7DAZ
W7EVC
W7NES
W7NJU
W7OJT
W7ZZZ
W8BP
W8CR
W8GND
W8GWQ
W8JOH
W8JSN
W8KEB
W8MVN
W8OHC
W8PBX
W8TMS
W9BM
W9DYG
W9MDI
W9SJS
W9WIS
WA0BAG
WA1CFX
WA1EKR
WA2CW
WA2DAC
WA2FJK
WA2PJI
WA3EZR
WA3NRC
WA3QHJ
WA4GWX
WA4JH
WA5UFH
WA5WHN
WA6BYD
WA6ES
WA6NUT
WA6WZA
WA6YPE
WA6YWA
WA7S
WA8PPW
WA8PPY
WA9CW
WA9PWP
WA9VNS
WA9ZQV
WB0RPA
WB0UWL
WB1DOG
WB2LOS
WB2PYU
WB2RAR
WB2UEC
WB3FOJ
WB4FSF
WB5LYJ
WB7EPC
WB7O
WB8DPZ
WB8HBJ
WB8NTR
WB9VLK
WC0G
WD7Y
WD8CAT
WD9EKK
WG6M
WIBQ
WJ0C
WN3C
WO9G
WR4A
WS8S
WW1L
WZ7W
XE2AUB

Welcome to the New FISTS

Number	Name	Call	State	Sponsor
6977	MIKE	KO4WX	GA	KG4AZU
6978	THOMOS	WB2YOR	NY	
6979	WARREN	AF4QE	NC	KE4HOS
6980	CLIFFORD	W9CM	IN	
6981	STEVE	WB4YHT	AL	K8VER
6982	ED	KB1EKD	RI	Webpage
6983	MAC	KV8O	OH	Webpage
6984	DAVE	KD7GIM	NV	N6RNP
6985	GARY	AA7VM	WA	Webpage
6986	STU	KW8K	MI	Webpage
6987	THOMAS	K9TEM	MI	W8CRD
6988	BOB	W4BVQ	AL	K4PTU
6989	DAVE	KB1BWZ	NH	WS0L
6990	TIM	KB2MFS	TN	KF4WK
6991	KIP	N1UYT	ME	N1WPU
6992	DAN	KD6AXT	CA	Webpage
6993	ED	KO4CO	FL	Webpage
6994	DESMOND	VE3ABT	ONT	G3ZQS
6995	ROY	KC0HAW	MN	W9NT
6996	RICK	KD6DKC	CA	
6997	ART	KZ5D	LA	W4HZD
6998	ARNOLD	K0ZK	ME	W4BX
6999	TOM	K4KTH	TN	K4BX
7000	FL FISTS	K4FFF	FL	N4GM
7001	Ogden ARC	KD7EID	UT	WB7QBC
7002	ED	N5GF	LA	Webpage
7003	Larry	N2OH	NJ	N9BOR
7004	William	KC7MJP	WA	K7ZPE
7005	BILL	K4WMA	VA	KJ3D,K4OW/WB2FXK
7006	STEVE	W5NQZ	TX	Webpage
7007	FISTS QSL Bureau	W4FCR	VA	
7008	Robert	K3OKR	MD	VE3GXV
7009	Jamie	none yet	NJ	K2VS
7010	Claude	WB6WSO	CA	W7AAV
7011	CHUCK	KC8MOC	OH	VA3SYQ
7012	PI	K1RV	MA	W5ZF
7013	NORM	K6OLE	CA	N9TRK
7014	STEVE	KG4FAQ	FL	KA2KDJ
7015	DAVE	KB1ELS	ME	WB4IYD
7016	PAUL	KB2SMW	NY	N4PAC
7017	DENNIS	WD9DWE	IN	K9RXK
7018	RICK	KQ6NO	CA	Webpage
7019	DAVE	WT8R	OH	W8FAX
7020	NATE	KC0HAI	MN	KC0BZN
7021	BONNIE	KB1ENL	ME	W1RWB
7022	JON	W8TY	OH	Webpage
7023	FRANK	K4ADI	SC	Webpage
7024	VINCE	W9OES	IL	K1RMF

Number	Name	Callsign	State	Sponsor
7025	VERNON	KB9STQ	IN	K0PN
7026	DAN	KD5ATE	LA	AB8AV
7027	WOODY	KD4SWQ	KY	KG4CUY
7028	JOE	WA1WFH	MA	
7029	Margo	KG8MS	MI	KG8XM
7030	Phyllis	KB4NPI	KY	KA8OKH
7031	DICK	N6UMM	CA	Webpage
7032	JOHN	N9CBM	IN	N1NM
7033	BOB	KD5BAJ	TX	KA7JSJ
7034	BOB	WA3HBT	PA	W4BX
7035	BILL	KT4OM	NC	Webpage
7036	NEAL	KA1SAW	MA	Webpage
7037	DAVE	KC7RKH	NC	Webpage
7038	JEFF	KG4ENR	TN	WP2T
7039	JOHN	WA2EYA	NY	Webpage
7040	PAUL	WA4IUL	NC	W4BX
7041	STEW	KB2VVB	NJ	N1DUQ
7042	DON	KD7FGK	OR	WD4PTJ
7043	HAL	WA6HZE	CA	W5OS/WA6RND
7044	JIM	N7ZFI	CA	K0MT
7045	BARRY	KG2OS	NY	
7046	CHARLIE	W3ROO	MD	K4PTU
7047	BOB	K0CY	IA	N9BOR
7048	GUY	VA2SVP	QUE	
7049	GARY	NZ8Y	OH	WP2T
7050	ANTHONY	K3UKW	PA	
7051	PETE	AA2AD	NY	WA2BQI
7052	RON	K7BCC	WA	Webpage
7053	JOHN	KC2AOA	NY	AB2AU
7054	GARY	KB9TUI	IN	W9EM
7055	TOMAS	NW7US	WA	Webpage
7056	PAUL	W4SXD	FL	W5OS
7057	JERRY	WA0AIC	KS	Tanya
7058	TERRY	KG43MM	KY	WB2FXK, AE4NW
7059	PAUL	K9NO	IL	K9UQN
7060	CRAIG	VE3CIJ	ONT	Webpage
7061	RICH	W3ZJ	MD	W9EM
7062	JIM	K5POA	TX	Webpage
7063	KENT	KD7GFE	MT	WA6SBB
7064	JERRY	KD0CA	IA	W4EEX
7065	MIKE	WB8ICN	MI	KB8ZYY
7066	JASON	KA7UAM	UT	K4YKI
7067	DENNIS	N0YOP	IL	Webpage
7068	RANDY	W6RA	CA	
7069	KEN	KF7S	UT	Webpage
7070	SAM	KC0DWU	MI	W8UH
7071	RON	K4UY	AL	N1NM
7072	JIM	W5MHL	OR	Webpage
7073	CHIP	N3BAO	PA	Webpage

Number	Name	Callsign	State	Sponsor
7074	ED	AB4S	NC	Webpage
7075	RICH	KC4OU	GA	N8USZ
7076	JOHN	KQ6WC	ID	Webpage
7077	CYNTHIA	KC2FVO	NY	W2CSS
7078	KEN	W0NXS	KS	Webpage
7079	JOHN	AF4MY	NC	KE6OIO
7080	BUCK	KJ6YK	CA	W6HV
7081	PETER	AK3X	MD	K8LEN, K3NY
7082	MARK	KE3UY	DE	K3LT
7083	BARRY	KB8OMG	OH	W5WWW
7084	DAVE	AH6K	NY	K1QQ
7085	RANDY	VE1AKQ	NS	W4BX
7086	GLYNN	K4RK1	NC	Webpage
7087	G.K.	W6HVR	OR	W6NKR
7088	JUDI	KD5FLL	NM	
7089	JOHN	K9TKE	IN	Webpage
7090	PHIL	W7BW	OR	W5ZF
7091	DON	KR3A	MD	Webpage
7092	PAUL	WA8MAX	MI	K8PG
7093	RICH	K2RSS	NY	AB2AU
7094	BILL	N8IVR	OH	Webpage
7095	HOMER	KA5TRI	LA	AI9L/AF9H
7096	BRIAN	AI7Z	CO	
7097	KYLE	KM5WP	NM	Webpage
7098	GENE	KE4TYV	VA	KD4ZRD
7099	DAVID	KC7NOW	OR	W5WWW
* DX FISTS have the 7100 numbers *				
7200	OH FISTS	KC8NOC	WV	KI8DU
7201	KEN	WA2AXC	MO	K0MPC
7202	CLAYTON	VA3CLY	ONT	VA3EWK
7203	KEVIN	KR6AI	CA	N7XV
7204	PAUL	K1CGZ	ME	NIWPU
7205	RALPH	N8YQJ	MI	KG2OK
7206	JOHN	W3WOM	PA	KB7PIM/WA7EWG
7207	TONY	W1AMZ	CT	KD5GPJ
7208	RILEY	K4ZDH	PA	
7209	G.W.	N7MRI	NV	W6NKR
7210	BRAD	W4HBC	AL	Webpage
7211	LEON	KC5BUT	OK	K6DF
7212	SCOTT	N3SW	PA	N3ON
7213	GREG	KF4UCH	OK	Webpage
7214	DAVE	KQ4CW	VA	Webpage
7215	STEVE	W5JK	TX	W9EM
7216	LOYD	K4SLM	FL	VA3UU
7217	PAOLO	W5TNT	TX	NA4MA
7218	RICK	KQ6NO	CA	Webpage
7219	COY	K9VPX	IL	Webpage
7220	KEN	KF4PIU	FL	KE4REM
7221	TERRY	W1QF	MI	WS0L

Number	Name	Callsign	State	Sponsor
7222	BILL	WB2SXY	NY	KC7QOP
7223	LARRY	WA4FOB	KY	
7224	GARRY	VE3JAD	ONT	VA3KEW
7225	ELIZABETH	KB9UWY	IL	
7226	DENNIS	N0WA	IA	Webpage
7227	BASIL	K6SCY	CA	K7ZPE
7228	JIM	W0KSD	CO	W9EM
7229	PAUL	N9PW	IN	Webpage

Callsign Changes

Pat, AC5FR, # 4565, is now KX5F
KA6WQE, # 5751 is now W7GDB
KB9TMI, # 6195 is now N9CU
Mike, KB4KKL, # 3840 is now K4KKL
Dick, K5IZ, # 4116 is now W5PTU
Frank, AB7YZ, # 6556 is now N7UO
Chuck, KC7ZUX, # 5943 is now KK7UL
Jim, KC8KSD, #5950 is now AB8EP
Glenn, AB7ZY, # 4496 is now K7GAS
Linda, KK1C, #3847, is now W1MP
Dan, KC0FMA, # 6852, is now N0BN
RJ, WB8HBJ (RJ reads the Keynote onto tapes, which are duplicated by Ken W8ROG, for our blind members), is now N8KV

Congratulations!

To Bill, WA8JPR on his upgrade to Extra!
To Loretta, KA0VZZ, on her upgrade to Extra!
To Dave, KF4HAW, on passing his Advanced!

Corrections

Tom, 6987, K8TEM, was incorrectly listed as K9TEM.

Ron, 6809, AC7AC was incorrectly listed as AC6AC.

Since we now have several vessels in the FISTS ranks now, pse change NY3EC "The Sub" 1443 to it's proper name of USS REQUIN on your listings.

From Mady KP3YL # 6: On page 8 of Issue 11 1999, second column, under "Soapbox", the third entry, my call is listed as KP4YL. It should be KP3YL.

Mark Your Calendar – FISTS Happenings

From April 13 to April 23, Grant, #2573 is going to the island of Antigua (NA-10) and operating as V21CW. Look for him on all HF bands, including the WARCS near the usual FISTS frequencies (they are listed on the masthead of the KeyNote). In addition, look for Grant on 12 meters 24.918, 17 meters 18.088, and 30 meters 10.118. He will also be on the novice bands. This will be a CW only operation.

FISTS members can send their QSL's to the FISTS QSL Bureau and cards will be forwarded to Grant. Direct QSLs (SASE) will go to: N4GM, Grant Mitchell, 8456 NW 34 Manor, Sunrise FL 33351.

Have fun Grant, and we hope to work you!

Coast to Coast Event

In the spirit of the West Coast Triples, there will be a Year 2000 Coast to Coast FISTS Clubs Event April 15, sponsored by K7FFF and K1FFF. The time is from 1300 UTC April 15 to 0500 UTC, April 16. The goal is to work as many clubs with FISTS numbers as you can during this time period.

As always, these clubs are worth three points toward your Century Certificate (or CC). If desired, you may get a certificate to commemorate working levels of 5, 10 or 15 clubs. These certificates are available from Casey KS7J, NOT through FISTS awards program. More info on getting the certificates will be in the next Keynote.

Bands of operation will be 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 - no WARC bands. Listen for CQ C2C or CQ CTC. The exchange will be RST, Name, State and FISTS number.

For more information contact Casey Bahr, KS7J, 24250 SW Drake Ln, Hillsboro OR 97123.

Also, check the web pages, <<http://www.qsl.net/k1fff>> or <<http://www.foreign-interests.com/k7fff>>. If you are a club or vessel with a FISTS number and want to participate, contact Perley, N1YUK at <k1fff@qsl.net>. I will put more detailed info in the March Keynote, but mark your calendar now, you won't want to miss this event!

Renewing Your Ticket?

Ben, N6SL, informs me that when you file a FCC Form 605 to request a change of address, it no longer automatically renews your license for another ten years. He tried to mark the boxes for change of address and renewal, and the form "bounced". You can only request a single activity on the 605 form. Thanks for the info Ben! My license expires this month. I had submitted a 605 last month to renew it, and they rejected it as being the wrong type of form. They sure don't make it easy. Of course, I don't think it's worth paying W5YI to do it for me, hi.

Morse Code to the Rescue...again

I was on my office today when two colleagues showed up knocking up at my door. They were looking for me because a UPS being used at a machine in our plant failed to work and was sending a message in Morse code. Weird, I thought but nevertheless I went with them to take a look at the machine.

There it was and in fact, it was sending a message in Morse code. Holy maca, first time I see a thing like that. It was easy to jot down on a piece of paper whatever the machine was sending. The operation manual had on its back cover, a legend in dots and dashes at the troubleshooting area but he who does not know on how to recognize such strange sounds could have never understood its meaning. I had one of my biggest smiles on my face knowing that CW, will never die. From Hector (Luigi) Perez-Diaz

Unsolicited Testimonial

If congress knew how much fun I'm having with FISTS, they'd surely enact legislation to outlaw it! Just mailed in my application and log for Century Club Award. Stan, K4UK, put me over the top this morning. Haven't had this much fun since first getting licensed in 1965. Thanks & 73...Dave, WA9PDS, #6790

In addition to his duties as Code Buddy Coordinator, John W9EM answers the comments/questions that we get on our FISTS Web page Guestbook. The following is a question that I thought John answered quite eloquently, so I wanted to share part of it with you:

Comment from Guestbook: If FISTS really supports CW, where is your opposition to reducing the code requirement??? Especially the 20 WPM Extra requirement? I thought FISTS might be a worthwhile orga-

nization to join but, thought I'd wait and see what FISTS would say or do. I am glad I saved the money so I can use it to support the effort to reinstate the 20 WPM Extra code requirement.

Johns answer: I'm sorry you are disappointed with FISTS. Let me try to explain our clubs intent to try and clear up any possible misunderstanding. I have been a FISTS member for a little over two years. It is my understanding that the club was founded as a group to support the use of CW. It is not intended to be a political organization. We don't look down on any other mode and believe there is room for all. Our members just happen to like CW and we promote its use.

A love of MORSE and a concern for its perpetuation are the only requisites for membership. There is no specific speed requirement and neither is membership of the ARRL, RSGB, or other national body demanded. Our club was founded on three simple, straightforward goals:

1. To further the use of CW on the amateur bands.
2. To encourage newcomers to the CW mode.
3. To engender friendship within the membership.

We are not a group of political activists attempting to shape bureaucratic policy or legislative decision making. Members definitely have their opinions and some are quite vocal. Some of our members hold positions in other national or international organizations where they actively influence policy or regulatory matters, but they do it as individuals or representing some other organization. Not FISTS. As an organization we do not endorse or condemn policy.

If you are interested, I'd like to personally invite you to become a member of the FISTS CW Club so you can find out personally about the membership and the clubs orientation. We have an international membership of over 7,000. I am proud to say, we are the fastest growing CW organization in the world with over 50 new members joining every month.

I think you will find us to be a friendly group with a diverse membership and that we promote a variety of interesting activities and member services. I hope we can convince you that we aren't a group of elitist bad guys. Just a fun group trying to enjoy this wonderful hobby and share one aspect with others 73, John - W9EM - Fists #4127

FISTS XL Tshirts sold out

Irene, WO8E, tells me that the XL sized FISTS t-shirts are now sold out. We have Medium and Large sizes left. Get yours now while they last! We don't anticipate having any left to bring to Dayton, so order now to avoid disappointment!

1991 Callbooks Wanted

I need at least one, but no more than four, issues of the 1991 Call Book. Surely some one in the group will have one archived that they are willing to part with. I will of course reimburse any postage necessary to obtain same. Members may contact me via e-mail: w4hzd@juno.com Thank you, Willard W4HZD FISTS No. 2673

Logging Program Recommendations Wanted

With some awards requiring a thousand QSOs, this could be alot of paper shuffling, can you name a good logging program that will also sort, etc? I know that QST, etc advertises many, but unless I buy them all, I wouldn't know what really works. Thanks John 4747

Wanted: WA9ICQ/WB6MEQ

I am looking for the last known QTH of WA9ICQ/WB6MEQ, John Zuris. 1976 Callbook showed nothing, so assume it was from 1965 to 1975 somewhere. Can anyone help me with the lost ham? Jon #6801

Railroad Abbreviation?

This OM isn't a FISTS member, but found us on the web and thought we might be able to help him out - any suggestions? "I wonder if you might be able to help me find an answer to a myster I have had for years, or direct my query to someone familiar with Morse and codes used by the Western Union.

In the 1920's my Grandfather had a boat he named the KAFJO. It supposedly was an acronym used in Western Union messages. I would be very grateful for any assistance in finding out what this means. E-mail answer is fine. Thanks" Pauls72511@aol.com
QRP With John Shannon, K3WWP

Tips for successful QRP operation (and QRO as well). If you can answer 'yes' to each of the following questions, you should be doing fabulously well with your QRP station. 1. Are your CQ's short and to the point? The best CQ pattern is a simple 3X2 with breaks of 4 or 5 seconds

to listen for an answer. For example CQ CQ CQ DE K3WWP K3WWP K, listen for 4 seconds. If you don't get an answer, repeat the sequence until you do or until you get tired and go fishing or something else. Please never call endless CQ's without sending your call. How often have you heard someone send a string of 10, 15, or even more CQ's without identifying himself? Doesn't that turn you off? It does me, and I tune away from that person very quickly. Short CQ's with frequent breaks to listen for answers are the best way to get a lot of QSO's with your QRP (or QRO) station.

2. Is your Morse as near to perfect as possible? DX stations themselves say it's much easier to copy a weak station whose sending is perfect than a strong station who is sending a conglomeration of dots and dashes that only occasionally form letters. Strive for perfection in your sending. Listen to WIAW or other 'machine sent' perfect code and strive to emulate it when you send CW. I'm sure you've all been forced to try to figure out if that was a Q or the letters MA, etc. As I write this, I just finished listening to someone calling KWA KWA KWA. DE xxxxx. I assume he was trying unsuccessfully to send CQ. Another thing - please keep those extra dots under control. If you stuck with a call having H, 5, 6, S, etc., be sure you're sending the right number of dots in each letter. The problem also happens with dashes but not as often. It's very unprofessional to send 6, 7, or 8 dots when trying to send a 5. Now we all do it once in a while as mistakes are a part of human nature, but it becomes a habit with some hams to send sloppy code. No, I'm not criticizing anyone with a handicap that prevents them from sending perfect code. Only those who can do it, but just don't care.

3. Is your keying free from chirp, clicks, and drift? The same thing applies here as to sending perfect Morse. It's much easier to copy a signal that is clean and crisp than one that sounds like a canary singing or a cricket chirping. Make it a point to periodically check your signal on the air either by exchanging stations with a ham friend so you can hear your own signals, or having someone you can work who will honestly tell you if your signal is not up to par. If you have a separate transmitter and receiver, it's easy to check yourself. I used to always know just how my signal sounded before I got my new transceiver. Now all I ever hear is how the sidetone generator in the transceiver sounds.

4. Is all (or as much as possible) of your RF being radiated up to the ionosphere? When you are dealing with such a small amount of RF to start with, it is important to waste as little of it as possible heating up your feedline or any of the many other ways it can be wasted. If you use a single band antenna, be sure it is resonant as close as possible to the frequency you use the most. If you use a single antenna on several different bands, use some sort of matching network to get an SWR as close to 1:1 as possible. I hear many stations running 100W or more who are much weaker than they should be, and I'm sure there is a mismatch somewhere in their antenna systems. Also many QRPers complain that they can't do anything with QRP. I'll bet they have some problem with their antenna system. I know QRP works

great even with simple antennas if you're just sure those antennas are doing their job.

5. Do you use proper procedures in your operating? This covers a multitude of things. I'll just mention a few here. If you DX, be sure to listen to the DX station before jumping in and calling. Find out his pattern. Some stations finish each QSO with their call, others send simply dit dit. Learn what the station you're trying to work is doing before you jump in. Also be sure where he is listening. If he ends with UP, UP 1, etc., never call him on his own frequency. Call 1 (2,3, whatever) kHz higher than his frequency. Often times the station won't say UP, but you can be sure if he's a rare one, and there's no pileup on his frequency, then he's listening UP for calls. Otherwise don't do things like ending your CQ's with KN, don't call someone at the end of a QSO if they have sent CL. Learn all the procedure signals and what they mean, then use them only in the correct way.

6. If you are calling CQ at 30 WPM, and someone answers you hesitatingly at 20 WPM, do you slow down to answer him? This is a rough one, but generally it is best to match your sending speed to that of the station you are working. There are cases where someone can copy 50 WPM, but just can't send faster than 20 WPM. So as I said this is a hard one to be definite about. However, never answer someone's CQ faster than the speed at which they are sending unless you know them and know they can copy faster.

7. Do you zero beat a station each time you call someone? This is very important, so learn how to zero beat someone with your rig if you don't already know. If the station you're working is running 400 watts, and you call him 500 Hz higher in frequency, it is quite possible that another station will not hear you and jump right on top of you. However if you are on the exact frequency of the 400 watt station, you can pretty much be sure that he will keep the frequency clear for both of you. Even more important, when you zero beat someone exactly, the two of you are only using one frequency instead of two leaving that much more room for other stations. Finally, if you call off frequency, you are less likely to be heard because the station you are calling will almost always start off listening on his own frequency (except for some DX operations as mentioned previously), and if someone else is zero beat and you are not, guess who is going to get the QSO.

There are many other things that you can do to be successful with QRP. I'd appreciate hearing any suggestions you have. One thing that many QRPers do is to sign /QRP at the end of their calls. I've made over 25,000 QRP QSO's, worked 167 countries, all states many times over, and all continents many times over in the past 7 years without doing that, so... I wish you continued great QRPing throughout 2000. The rest of this year and next should really be great with the sunspot cycle around its peak.

Contact me in any of 3 ways: John Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304 - www.alltel.net/~johnshan or johnshan@alltel.net. 73, -30-

DX KEYNOTE

OFFICES

QSL Manager: G0FRL, Bob Lowe
PO Box 190, BOLTON, BL1 4UL
U.S. Rep: W28C, Ms. Nancy Kott,
5450 Diehl Rd., METAMORA, MI48455
PRO: G4YLB, J.A. Welsh
3 Minster Cres., DARWEN, BB3 3PY
CONTEST MANAGER: GM4BAE
Northbrae, Brookfield Cres., STRANRAER, DG9 0HY
E-Mail: fist1@compuserve.com FISTS (EU) WEB
SITE <http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/>
International Morse Preservation Society
Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS, 119 Cemetery Rd.,
DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS
US 0100Z on 14058
Tues: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)
Wed: US Net 0100z on 14058
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
Psc keep watch all Novice allocations
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

Awards & QSLs. Claims for awards and QSL cards for onward routing etc. to G0FRL. All other correspondence to HQ.

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. 3 x 2nd class stamps to cover running costs and postage.

Lapel Badges: £1.50. **Fabric patches** £2.50.

QSL Cards: £9.00 per 200 + £1.00 p&p. £6.00 per 100 + 60p p&p.

Subscriptions: UK £5.00, Europe £7.00, DX £10.00.

Renewal dates: Your subs become due on the anniversary of the month you joined and the renewal date is printed on your mailing label. Your anticipation would be appreciated.

YOUR CALLSIGN PLEASE on ALL correspondence.

GREETINGS

Y2K.. well, it's arrived and we are still here to prove the fact. No aircraft have fallen out of the sky, there has been no epidemic of rail crashes, the computers in the Pentagon have not initiated WW3 by detecting spurious missiles and as far as I am aware, everyone's milk was still delivered on time. Mind you, some strange things have been happening radio-wise because when pressed, a button on my rig marked '28' which I had hitherto thought was related to dB gain with SSB signals produced all manner of DX on a number of occasions. I was sure the manual was wrong but now I am beginning to believe that it really is for setting the rig on 28MHz.

Trying to explain the wonder of radio to a friend I started with the thought that when you come to think that a signal from another continent or even on the opposite side of the world having the same sort of power that would light a flashlight bulb can be selected by your receiver from millions of others of far greater power - that's sensitive. But you want really sensitive? When I take Tammy for his usual sniff and dribble, the house is out of sight within minutes. Frequently, on returning, he just can't get in fast enough and his tail is vibrating like a guitar string. I know without asking that Ivy has arrived home during our absence and that

Tammy's only clue is the fact that she has put a foot on the step. I have even had him getting excited before we cross the road and suspect that the ambulance has been down recently and he can differentiate between the scent left by the tyres and that of countless others which have rolled down the surface. The sensitivity of that nose I understand is in the order of tens of thousands greater than that of the human bugle. Makes you think doesn't it?

We really opened a can of worms with the Millenium award. Foolishly I thought to give the hunters a bit of a start by publishing a short list but this back-fired in no time with (particularly the US stations) clamouring for a list. This is not the idea - not with this or any other award. On air, it takes no time at all to ask 'Diamond award?' and if affirmed the number will be returned also. I think we may now have a situation where all other members are being ignored in the presence of any of the call signs so thoughtlessly published. It is I confess, entirely my own fault and Bob was a tad miffed when he realised what I had done. Sorry.

QSL cards are processed as soon as possible but during the period when I am in the business of putting Keynote together, they - and just about everything else - assume a reduced priority. Under these circumstances, only subscriptions find their way into the accounts package. All other matters are relegated to the back burner until time can be found. If your request for QSL cards are not handled promptly, please be patient.. other matters may well have centre stage.

TO PRESERVE OR PROMOTE?

Hi Geo,

It's now just a bit over a year since I got my M0 licence and just under a year since I joined Fists. In that time I've turned into a CW fan, partly thanks to Fists membership. I finally got my CC just before Christmas and now have certificate no. 827. There is a microphone attached to my IC706, but I can't remember the last time I used it! I'm now 100% CW and probably 80% QRP. This last year has also seen a procession of 5 QRP kits through the shack, ranging from a Howes DC2000/TX2000 through a DSW30 from Small Wonder Labs (what a clever little project that is, with DDS, built in keyer and audio frequency readout) to a Wilderness Sierra, my Xmas present from Caroline, my generous and understanding XYL (well she is a pretty serious stamp collector herself :-)).

Inoted in "Keynote" that members had been chiding you for changing from "Preservation" to "Promotion". I think promotion is much better than preservation. Preservation makes us sound like some sort of living museum, keeping CW going like an old steam train, beautiful but not really useful anymore. I use CW because it's fun, it gives each QSO a sense of achievement and keeps me on my toes using an acquired skill which I keep polished. I'd like to think

we promote CW for the fun and pleasure that it offers, its efficiency in getting the signal through and also the opportunity to make QSO's with fairly straightforward home built equipment. As a local said to me when I first got back on the air, "any fool can use a microphone", he didn't add, "and lots seem to" -.) It's something I want to promote, not merely preserve. I've enjoyed my first year of CW, and I hope to be around to use it for many more with my trusty Kent straight key and my shiny new Bencher paddles from G3TUX. I know that the fashion seems to be for "no-code" or only 5 wpm. It's no good if we just gripe about it, because that just shows us to be steam engine preservers who just think the past more wonderful than the present, let alone the future.

When I was first licensed I was about 16. The old G3's in my local club were smuffy, stand-offish, and never offered to help me learn Morse. It's up to us to be enthusiastic about CW at our local clubs, tell them about how it can be learnt - I used a combination of "NuMorse" on the PC and a Datong Morse tutor as well as one to one tuition, and enjoy our CW on the air, getting those rigs fired up and the keys tapping. I'm proud to be a member of FISTS and GORP and still, yes, the RSGB, for they got me back into amateur radio after a 15 year gap.

I hope that I'll hear GX0IPX again soon. Sorry I never make the nets, I'm always working or eating!

Vy 73; Paul Barlow M0CDP FISTS 5579 GORP 10289

CQ DE M200A

The Cray Valley gang activated the above call for the new millenium and it will remain active until some time this month so there is ample opportunity to grab it. I got a splendidly printed colour brochure on project ECHO (Eltham Contacting Hams Overseas) which has an impressive array of sponsors including English Heritage, the London Borough of Greenwich and the RSGB. Support is also evident from SMC, Icom (UK), Highline Comms, Strumech, Nevada, Computdata and others. The home of ECHO is Greenwich Park and is open to visitors 1000-1600 Wednesday through Sunday for those of you finding yourselves in the area.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

OK1PFG. George dropped me a line to advise me of a change of address (he is still in Budejovice) the cost of which was supported by a new job - the same one which restricted his time on air - but in spring he is looking forward to planting a tower in the garden together with beams. G4KLQ. Edd was having a bit of a lay-down in September when he was struck by a coronary. Fortunately the XYL was there to sound the alarm and he found himself languishing in dry-dock in no time flat. Happily, there appears to be no lasting damage. An old friend of ours, Ray Pitts (shame on me.. how could I forget the call) sends me a page from the Lewison (Mame) journal in which the reader is invited to write a headline in Morse. This is accompanied

by a graphical illustration of the code in and-fashon (ugh) which identifies the symbol we all recognise as zero by the new title '10'. Hmrmrm. Edison, it recounts, was so fond of sending Morse that he named his two children Dot and Dash. ZL2BCW sends me a copy of the Quartz Hill Story which I would love to reproduce but it occupies as much space as Keynote. Suffice it to say that the Wellington Club is probably unique among such organisations in having a superb antenna farm including vee beams and rhombics at it's disposal. G0HGA. I have an absolute blockbuster here from Angie which amounts to 4 close typed foolscap pages (whew!) but an interesting titbit for those of you running WIN95/98 is that the screen-saver '3D PIPES' turns up some very surprising results when SETTINGS is tweaked. One such example is a glorious display of teapots. Hi. A note of caution for those tempted by el-cheapo offers of high powered computers - Angie parted with hard to come-by cash for a virtual lemon.

This month's mail bag was not as small as it appears though most of the communications were in the form of Christmas Cards (some 200 in total) to which it would be a mammoth task to reply.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

I continue to receive e-mails from members whose addresses are not recognised in Brian's (W8BL) list. If you have an e-mail address and have not already done so then could you please advise Brian so that he can keep his list up-dated. The address blafont@tir.com. If you wish it, you will receive an up-dated version periodically.

JA LICENCE STATUS

Alen, BV4PS, tells me that there is now a new class of licence in Taiwan with the prefix BX. At the time of advice, there were seemingly some 16 or 18 successful applicants for this licence class - we look forward to many more.

Full status range is:

class	prefix	suffix	mode	band
1	BX	2 char	all	all
2	BV or BM	2 char	all	all
3	BX	3 char	all	above 21MHz
4	BM	3 char	phone	VHF/UHF

only

I do hope I have this info correct though Alen's translation is somewhat confusing.

THERE'S A HOLD UP

Shortly before the Oldham Rally, Bob (G0FRL) discovered a metal case full of gremlins. It had hitherto held a fairly modern computer but now, apart from a few beeps and other objectionable noises, it's behaviour was distinctly reminiscent of a rubber ball. He purchased a video board (logical since there was no video at all) only to discover that the problem was more deeply rooted and he will be seeking a replacement mother board at the Lancaster rally. I was able to provide a spare set up which he intends to restrict to FISTS use.

only but as of Jan 23 at least, he had 4 mail-bags of QSL cards to sort and log together with a batch of new members and award claims to process. This has had a direct effect on myself hence a somewhat belated Key-note.

RALLY VISITS

As you may have gathered from the above item, G0FRL, G0JWB, G0WPO and my-self were to be found at Oldham and the Lancaster University. There were some 40 members signing in and half a dozen new members. It would be appreciated however if more stands were to be located in the various popular rallies up and down the country. Bill is frequently busy with Morse Tests and frequently, I am - to say the least - spaced out but it is good publicity.

GREETINGS FROM DOWN UNDER

Hello Geo, hpe ur keeping well in the cold old country! Just to say that our move to VK was not without trauma - as we still have grandchildren in London. Perhaps one day we will retire to Devon. In meantime while you suffer the damp and darkness of winter, we are trying to keep cool. 30°-32°C at moment, unusual warmth for this area. But the fridge keeps the beer cold!

The rig was set up a day or two after moving in to our new home

Dunno why it took so long! First Fists QSO, quite by co-incidence, was with Ralph, ZL2AOH who rapidly organised things and sent me a nice qsl and a current newsletter. And asked for my cheque for renewal of Subscription!!

Don't worry, it will be arranged. Very little life on the bands in this part of the world and Fists members scarce. I miss the old ragchews on 80m in the evenings. That band is little used here and would you believe it is a job to find even a BC stn on 7 mcs! So am hoping for more action soon as the ant farm grows (we have 8 acres).

David G3SCD/VK3DBD (3756)

THE WEB PAGE

The EU web page address was modified shortly after the last Keynote was on it's way so I was unable to warn you in sufficient time. Andy kindly agreed to run a general message to this effect to all appearing on the list circulated by Brian, W8BL. If you have it in your address book, simply delete 'olivenet' and replace it with 'asel' the full address therefore is:
<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/>.

More for the benefit of the curious than for members, Andy has managed to do a direct translation from the DTP to Adobe Acrobat. Hitherto, the printed copy had to be scanned and the resultant file was many MBytes in size but he has been able to reduce this significantly. The listings are updated regularly and an application

form is available amongst other items. Also available is the logging programme which contains only FISTS members in it's sample QSO file. However, an updated QSO.DBF may be obtained from HQ for a 1.44mB floppy and return postage. Alternatively, e-mail your request and I can return it as a ZIP file.

THE MORSE TEST SERVICE

If my memory permits, I will remind you again nearer the time but for the moment, mark your diaries because the popular RSGB MORSE TEST ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND is scheduled to take place on May 13/14. As usual, participating stations will be using GB0 plus their county identifiers and ten of these contacts plus £2.50 to G4HNF, 116 Reading Rd, Woodley, RG5 3AD earns you a certificate.

Activity will be focused on the 40 and 80m bands and in order to encourage newcomers to apply for the award, each team will spend some time calling slowly in the Novice CW section of the 80m band (above 3650). The more competent amongst our members are encouraged to leave these occasions to the slower operators since the same GB0 stations will be available at other times in the general section of the band.

You are reminded that this event is not a contest. Examiners will be happy to reply at whatever speed they are called at and there is no restriction upon the preferred hardware - straight key, bug or el-keyer - it's all the same.

SILENT KEY

Belated advice from John, M0BZG that Gordon (G3MHH) passed away in August/September of last year. Despite his death being due to natural causes, it was still something of a shock to friends and family. Gordon, John tells me, had more or less hung up his key some time ago - frustrated by the twin difficulties of finding work and balancing a meagre income, the failure of his rig and his inability to pay for repairs must surely have hastened his passing.

From G3JRY, I learn of the death of Tony, G0PKB. Those who knew him will know that he was the severely handicapped son of Clarry and was generally to be found operating from his bed.

I am also in receipt of a funeral notification in connection with DE0DXM Peter (FISTS 3706) which appears to indicate that he died January 18th. There is no additional information.

NEW MEMBERS

6496	PA3HBQ	John	6497	PD1ACI	Carla
6498	G3YSK	John	6499	MX0CCF	CLUB
7100	M5AFS	Peter	7101	GX3EEO	CLUB
7102	G4SVC	Tim	7103	M0CPP	Bob
7104	G0TZD	Rich	7105	GW0TQM	
Carl	7106	2E1HEX	Bob	7107	
G4LJI	Robin				
7108	2E0AUK	Tom	7109	OH3TZ	Timo

7110 G3UNM Alf 7111 G0UCD Martin
2B1HEX is temp.. waiting test and new call.

MX0CCF (sponsored by G0LCG) is the club station of the Scarborough College Combined Cadet Force (I do hope we hear lots of activity from this one) and GX3EEO is the club station of Nunsfield House ARG in Derby. Assuming sponsorship for this one is G0IYZ. I am also happy to welcome Carla, PD1ACI. She is additionally a SWL bearing a NL-SWL number.

G3UNM (Alf) turned up at the Lancaster University after driving from Cheadle. He has the misfortune of being a close associate of G3HZL whom, I understand, recently turned his 'noddie car' over and is now in the business of seeking four wheels instead of three. And for the benefit of our overseas members (I am sure to get drawn over the coals if I do not mention it), a noddie car is a lightweight 3-wheeled vehicle invented I suspect by a member of Noah's immediate family, which was standard issue to the infirm up to a decade or so past. The one which Don drove was well past it's sell-by-date so a converted Corsa or similar vehicle should be the order of the day.

ODDS N' ENDS

Sticky Fingers

I have done it again! Pse note G0FHK; name is Ray - not Roy *&£%#!... gotta get these specs changed!

It doesn't surprise me one bit

Gordon, G4ZPY, has found himself with a back-log of no mean magnitude on his orders for keys. This I discovered when I enquired about the progress of the presentation key for FISTS of the Year. I mention this in case any of the gang are currently awaiting a delivery. Considering the much publicised demise of CW, it is a strange situation when dealers are struggling to find even 50% of their order for something which allegedly, nobody needs any more. Hi

EUCW Frat Party

First news of this came from Maurice, F5NQL and at the time, no call signs are mentioned but Class A of the event was won by a FISTS member and we also placed another member 2nd in the QRP category. An excellent result but what is more gratifying is the large turn out by FISTS and, having had a taste, we are hoping for a significant participation next time.

Old QSL Cards

My mention last month of these items which must be sulking in the attics of many of our more senior members brought a response from Jeff (G3LWM) who writes:

"Saw your piece in Key Note abt old QSL's. You could Email

oe9pti@telebout.vol.at

He is involved with an organisation that collects old QSLs. I obtained a copy of a QSL recording a QSO

between my uncle (the late G8NK) and an OE station on the 3rd June 1937! When I was a QSL sub-manager the RSGB took all my non collected cards with them to the Hamfest at Fredrikshaven and gave them to this organisation.

Hope this is of some use to you, 73 Jeff"

Talking News Letter

"Hello George,

I was reading Key Note for December 1999 onto tape for our partially sighted listeners when it suddenly struck me. The recording usually occupies about one side of a C90 tape which means we are sending out side 2 blank. Why not record Morse practice on side 2. Anyway I did that using 5wpm QSO's for the first part and 12wpm on the remainder and mailed the six tapes off. We are now awaiting comment from the listeners as to whether they like the idea or not. It was then that the thought struck me; I wonder if my good friend George has each edition of 'Key Note' available on a 3.5" PC disk and so save me a lot of effort messing about with scanners etc. We could then use that as the 'Text' for side 2.

If this is possible all I have to do is to ascertain what Morse speed would best suit each of our listeners (assuming they approve) and 'Bingo'!! It may also be of interest to some of our sighted listeners too as it would provide them with ready made read - back for Morse practice tapes ??

Mind you George, a lot of my ideas are batty but anything that spreads the 'Gospel' is worth thinking about !!

All the very best to Ivy and yourself from Rita and I plus a lot of your friends up here. de George (GM4HYF)"

Now that is a thundering good idea George and it is very kind of you to put yourself to so much trouble. All items which fall into the category of text can be assembled as a single ASCII file and I will stuff it on e-mail for you.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM KA8OQF

"Greetings!

For those who read the statement here recently about the sideswiper that "...it demands for greater discipline to operate cleanly than the bug", I say horse pockey. After suitable practice (and in my case that was 30 minutes using only two of five thumbs), a decently clean and intelligible signal can be put out with a sideswiper. Its contact spacing requirements are much less critical than the bug, and its speed/timing constants are not partially regulated by the limits of a spring and how much solder you can wrap around the weights. If anyone would like to try their hand at the "cootie key", any single lever paddle can be made into an adequate substitute. The contact spacing and return spring tension should be set to at least twice normal (a bit of experimentation for personal preference will be needed here). The keyer will need to be turned off, and the dot and dash contacts will probably need to be connected together. If you want to build your own, the

traditional hacksaw blade works quite nicely. For the more mechanically inclined, the full blueprints for "The Torsion Bar Key" are in the ARRL's Hints&Kinks (red cover edition). This is supposed to be a single lever paddle whose spring action is not a coil spring but a torsion bar (a straight bar that is twisted for the springing). A friend built me one, I forgot to turn the keyer on one night, and rediscovered a time-honored keying method. In addition, the sideswiper has a unique bell-like note on the air when things are adjusted properly (I'm not sure why this is, but it stands out magnificently).

Charlie KA8OQF FISTS #1478"

I am not at all sure the bearded midget is correct about the ease of operating. Don't forget you have to make your own spacing and a heck of a lot of people fall down on this even with an el-keyer. Practice is most certainly demanded.

ELECTRONIC LOG

With the failure of G0FRL's computer, we began to take a more clinical look at computer prices and, at the lower end of the market, they are falling like Autumn leaves. A very modest 286 plus green screen could probably be had for less than £30 which reminds me of Tex, G3TTH, lamenting the disintegration of his ABC Notebook last year so - needs must - he looked around for something a little less perishable and came up with a 256 KB pocket organiser which probably cost only a little more than a replacement for the paper index. Ideal for keeping alongside the key and of course, unlike the PC in general use, it is truly portable and is equally at home /P or /M.

I remind you that our own logging prog whilst unsophisticated, is available for a blank 1.44MB floppy and return postage. On order the QSO database comes with a up-to-date FISTS listing.

FINALE

Well again my apologies for the late despatch people. Whilst not always free to be QRV, the rig is invariably set to 2KHz bandwidth on one of the bands and held on the speaker so I do get a fair idea of the level of activity from the gang. If the current band condx continue, we may be in for one heck of a season. With the strength of the club, those award points are a-begging.

See you on the bands my friends.

Have fun, 73/88 and stay sober. Geo.

FISTS CLUB DOWN UNDER

Local News - February 2000

12c Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace,
Wellington 6001, New Zealand

Tel: 0-4-473-0847 Fax 0-4-473-0848
e-mail: sir_lancelot@compuserve.com
Welcome to 2000

Welcome to all with our first Fists Down Under for the New Year, and a special welcome to our new members listed below.

New year came without the sky falling in and a lot of computer gurus have gone back into their hideouts to think up the next scheme to keep the income rolling in. The only anomaly noted in our QTH was that my XYL's old Amstrad 286 woke up on New Year's morning thinking it was 1 April 1984. However, a DOS "DATE" change to the correct date fixed it and it has continued happily since. It will be interesting to see what happens on 29 February!

For many of you, this will arrive with a New Year present of QSL cards that have accumulated since our last mailing.

New Members Down Under

Welcome to ZL2AP-9025-Joep de Greeuw from Haumoana, Hawkes Bay. Joep was the recipient of a QSL card through the FISTS bureau. In forwarding the card to him I enclosed an application form. Joep wrote, "Thanks for sending on the card Ralph. I am very happy to join FISTS! Finding the CW a great way to make contacts and getting better at sending and receiving. Looking forward to being a part of it!" Joep adds that the previous holder of his call was Bert Eade also a CW enthusiast, so he is keeping up its tradition. We remember Bert with affection. He was a regular participant on 80 metres in the evenings and is greatly missed. Joep says he has now been on the air for two years, only CW; after enjoying the challenge of learning Morse for the exam. He has worked 200 countries to date with a maximum power of 50 Watts.

Welcome also to ZL2HS-9026-Charles Shennan. Charles joined on the recommendation of ZL2AMM-9023-Stan. He has been a radio amateur since 1931. Charles lives in the small town of Turakina, and is our first

member from the Manawatu-Wanganui region.

Stan Morris

ZL2AMM-9023-Stan has recently been in hospital having a hip replacement operation. He seems to be making a good recovery and we hope that he will soon be back to 100% mobility.

FCC Licensing Changes

The ARRL reports that the FCC has issued its long-awaited Report and Order on amateur licensing restructuring. Starting 15 April 2000 there will be three licence classes – technician – general and amateur extra, plus a single Morse code requirement – 5 WPM!

The FCC believes that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

Elimination of the 13 and 20 WPM Morse requirements means an end to physician certification waivers for applicants claiming an inability to pass the Morse code examination due to physical handicap.

Editor's Activities

Your scribe has managed to keep busy since our last issue. We took part with ZL2CD-Bill-9004 in an official NZART millennium station from Quartz Hill using the call sign ZL6A. It was a multi operator and multi rig operation with CW and SSB contacts. The conditions were not at all good with a high A index over the two days that the station opened. The bulk of the contacts were made using good old CW.

Did you see the program on the sun in the "Planets" currently showing on TV1? It's a wonder that we ever hear anything with the continuous bombardment of solar energy

we receive.

With the change of seasons, I haven't worked many North American FISTS members lately, but have hooked a few European and JA members. The conditions haven't been all that good.

We haven't received any correspondence from members over the break, although the QSLs continue to flow. So as Dean Martin used to say, "keep sending in those cards and letters coming."

Membership List

It's just one of those things, that a huge number of deletions should arrive so soon after I issued a new membership list. The budget won't allow an early issue of the new list, but those of you on e-mail can request a copy for downloading, and others can get a copy by forwarding a SASE and \$2-00 to cover the cost of photocopying. It is planned to issue the next free list in July 2000.

That's all folks! See you in March.

Vy 73 de RALPH

LATE BREAKING US FISTS NEWS

I just received confirmation that we will again have a booth at the Dayton Hamvention (thank you Dayton Powers That Be!). Please consider taking an hour or two out of your busy shopping schedule to help out at the booth. It's a lot of fun, you'll get to meet other FISTS, argue with the no-coders who throw rotten tomatoes at us (just kidding!) and most importantly, give me a break so I can go out and buy more keys! Last year it was a huge success and I have a feeling this year is going to be even better.

We will have a FISTS get-together on Friday night, as we have for the last 10 years. I know, I know, it conflicts with the QRP dinner, but there's not much I can do about that, since they are the ones who changed their day from Sat to Fri. The Hamvention/ARRL Banquet is Saturday night, so no matter which night we choose there is a conflict. Maybe the QRPers can stop by after dinner. See you there!! 73 88 Nancy WZ8C

FISTS CW CLUB, P.O. Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047
YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL DATE is on your mailing label

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WHEELS WHEELS
BY Arnie MCH 11/1/45



